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LETTER DATED 17 MAY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency herewith the text of the Joint Communiqué of the meeting held in Lisbon on 15 and 16 May 1991, between the representatives of the Government of the Popular Republic of Angola and of UNITA with the presence of the Portuguese mediators and observers from the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

I ask Your Excellency to kindly arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative to the
United Nations

Annex

Joint Communiqué

A meeting took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Lisbon, on 15 and 16 May 1991, with the participation of representatives of the Government of the Popular Republic of Angola and of UNITA, in the presence of the Portuguese mediators and of the observers from both the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The delegations expressed their satisfaction to the fact that the meeting coincided with the communication, made by both parties, to the Prime Minister of Portugal about their acceptance of the Agreements signed in Estoril and with the "de facto" suspension of hostilities.

In this regard they noted with great satisfaction that the Government of the Popular Republic of Angola and UNITA have both confirmed the current general observance of the cessation of hostilities, a factor that is extremely positive to the implementation of the cease-fire.

The mediators have informed the participants at the meeting that the two parties have also notified the Prime Minister of Portugal about their wish that Portugal, France and the United Kingdom could participate in the formation of the Angolan Armed Forces.

During the meeting the question of the participation of the United Nations in the observance of the cease-fire was discussed and the delegations agreed to request the Security Council for its support to the process, which is part of the Estoril Agreements and thus providing the necessary means to its full implementation. Furthermore, the participants also discussed the logistic aspects of setting up the structures established by the Estoril Agreements, as well as general aspects related to the formal signature of the Agreements, which will take place in Lisbon, on 31 May 1991, with the presence of the President of the Popular Republic of Angola, Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos and of the President of UNITA, Mr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi.

Lisbon, 16 May 1991